

XIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 117.]

48. 'The Auk.'

['The Auk,' a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Continuation of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.' Vol. I. No. 4, October 1884; Vol. II. No. 1, January 1885. Boston, Mass.]

In the number published last October, Mr. W. B. Burrows's list of the birds of the Lower Uruguay is concluded; and there are several other interesting papers on pure ornithology. Amongst these is a description of a new subspecies of Willow-Grouse from Newfoundland, called by Dr. L. Stejneger *Lagopus alba allenii*, distinguished from *L. alba* by having the shafts of the primaries and secondaries black, and the wing-feathers, even some of the coverts, mottled with blackish. No less than three papers treat, more or less, of the question of zoological nomenclature, commencing with one contributed by Prof. Coues, dated "May 27th, S.S. 'Oregon,' Mid-ocean," and ending with the third series of the "Analecta Ornithologica" by Dr. Stejneger. This is followed by the Report of the Second Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, at which the Editors of 'The Ibis' were courteously invited to assist; and they take this opportunity of expressing—although inadequately—their sense of the kind attentions they everywhere experienced from their brother ornithologists in America.

The earlier papers in the 'Auk' for January relate almost entirely to American birds; but Dr. Stejneger contributes a fourth series of his "Analecta Ornithologica," and Dr. C. Hart Merriam (who is now in Europe, and may be expected to visit us in April) gives an interesting Preliminary Report of the Committee on Bird-Migration. If hard work and elaborate returns from all parts of an area far exceeding that of Europe can teach us some truths about the migrations of birds, we are now in a fair way to obtain them. Six thousand circulars have been distributed, and one thousand returns have been received during the first year! We understand that Congress will vote aid to the extent of \$5000 (£1000) for the first year; *our* British Migration Committee receives £35 from the British Association!

49. *Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway on the Water-Birds of North America.*

[Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College. Vol. xiii. The Water-Birds of North America. By S. F. Baird, T. M. Brewer, and R. Ridgway. Vol. II. 4to. Boston: 1884.]

The concluding volume of this important work contains the remainder of the Ducks; the Steganopodes, including *Phaeton*; the Skimmers, Gulls, Terns, and Skuas, an order of sequence which passes our comprehension; followed by the Tubinares, and ending with the Pygopodes. Of the general style of execution it is impossible to speak in other than terms of praise; and as regards the thoroughly American species, the latest available information will, as a rule, be found. In their references to Old-World authorities the writers are not unfrequently at a disadvantage, from not being aware of the relative trustworthiness, or the reverse, of their sources of information; and there is a tendency to accept as gospel statements that have been shown to be incorrect. We cannot speak of Col. Grayson's specimens of the "Little Gull" from Mazatlan, not having seen them, although we do not for a moment suppose that they really belong to our *Larus minutus*; but as regards the reported occurrence of this species in the Arctic regions, it is well known and has been conclusively proved that the bird so named by Richardson was Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*), as were also the birds shot at Bermuda by Major Wedderburn. Nor can a work of this magnitude, and by more than one author, be expected to be free from minor errors and misprints; but on the whole they are comparatively few, and do not materially detract from the merit of the harmonious whole.

50. *Berlepsch on the Birds of Bucaramanga.*

[Untersuchungen über die Vögel der Umgegend von Bucaramanga in Neu-Granada. Von Hans von Berlepsch. J. f. O. 1884, p. 273.]

This carefully-prepared memoir is based principally upon collections received by the Lübeck and Bremen Museums

from the vicinity of Bucaramanga, in Colombia, on which district almost the only previous authority was Mr. Wyatt's paper in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1871, p. 113). Of 151 species enumerated and commented upon (of which 136 also occur in collections from Bogota) three are described as new—*Thryophilus minlosi*, *Pacilotriccus lenzi*, and *Phyllomyias cristatus*. The two former are also figured. *Pacilotriccus* is a new genus of Tyrannidæ, to be placed between *Todirostrum* and *Euscarthmus*, and contains also *Tod. ruficeps* of Bogota and *Tod. rufigene* of Ecuador.

51. Bidwell on Sabine's Gull.

[On the Occurrence of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) in Adult Plumage in the Isle of Mull. By Edward Bidwell. Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinb., Session 1883-84, p. 131.]

Although many immature examples of Sabine's Gull have been obtained in the British Islands, and a certain number on the Continent, yet only five specimens in breeding-plumage are recorded, and the localities ascribed to some of them are open to doubt. The above-mentioned bird and one shot in Bridlington Bay on 10th August, 1872, are the only instances of adults in Britain; and an adult was obtained on the coast of Brittany on the 25th August, 1872, just fifteen days later. (Cf. Yarrell's Brit. Birds, 4th ed. vol. iii. p. 575.)

52. W. Blasius on a new Trumpeter.

[Ueber einen vermuthlich neuen Trompeter-Vogel von Bolivia (*Psophia cantatrix*, Boeck, in litt.). Von Prof. Dr. Willh. Blasius. J. f. O. 1884, p. 203.]

This supposed new species is described from information received from Prof. Eugen von Boeck, Director of the Central School in Cochabamba. The bird in question is found on the Mamoré and Beni rivers, and would seem to come nearest to *Ps. leucoptera*, if it be not identical with that species.

53. W. Blasius on Grabowsky's latest Bornean Collections.

[Ueber die neuesten Ergebnisse von Herrn F. J. Grabowsky's ornithologischen Forschungen in süd-öst Borneo. Idem. *Tom. cit.* p. 210.]

Prof. Blasius published his first paper on Grabowsky's Bornean bird-collections in the 'Verhandlungen der zoologisch-botanischen Gesellschaft' of Vienna (1883, pp. 1-90). Grabowsky has since then shifted his quarters, and sent home altogether 85 more bird-skins, which have been already partly reported on at a sitting of the 'Verein für Naturwissenschaft' of Brunswick. Prof. Blasius now describes the new district visited by Grabowsky at some length. It lies up the Negara, a confluent of the Bareto, in Eastern Borneo, and is shown in Carl Bock's map. A list of about fifty species, to which the birds represented in Grabowsky's last collection are referable, follows, and special remarks upon some twenty-five of these. Near Mindai, Grabowsky found *Machærhamphus alcinus* breeding, and shot one of the pair off the nest, which was placed on a lofty tree, but was unfortunately *empty*.

54. *W. Blasius on the Breast-bone of Birds.*

[Ueber Vogel-Brustbeine. Idem. *Tom. cit.* p. 228.]

This is an abstract of a paper read before the German Ornithological Society at their Meeting in Oldenburg. Dr. Blasius, who had long made the sterna of birds a special object of study, found in the series of the bones accumulated by Dr. Finsch during his recent travels in the Pacific many forms of great interest, and makes special remarks on the sterna of *Scythrops*, *Nestor*, *Ptilorhis*, *Esacus*, and *Dendrochelidon*.

55. *W. Blasius's third Paper on the Great Auk.*

[Neue Thatsachen in Betreff der Ueberreste von *Alca impennis*, Linn. Idem. *Tageblatt d. Naturf. Versamm. zu Magdeburg*, 1884, p. 321.]

This third recent contribution (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1884, pp. 205 & 454) to the history of the existing remains of *Alca impennis* contains some additions to the former lists, with rectifications of minor details, and tracings of the history of certain specimens which have changed hands.

56. *Bogdanow on Russian Ornithology.*

[Conspectus Avium Imperii Rossici. Auctore Modesto Bogdanow. Fasc. 1. 4to. St. Pétersbourg: 1884.]

This First Part commences with the Columbæ, three races of *C. livia* being recognized; and this Order is followed by the Heteroclitæ, in which the Glareolidæ are located, as well as the Pteroclidæ. In the Gallinæ, *Lagopus rupestris*, subsp. *insularis*, described as new from Bering Island, is evidently *L. ridgwayi*, Stejneger; *Tetrao urogalloides*, var. *β. sachalensis*, is a supposed novelty; and so is *Coturnix ussuriensis*. The Grallæ, comprising the Bustards, Cranes, Plovers, Sandpipers, and Herons, conclude the volume. Amongst the last named is a new species, *Butorides schrencki*.

57. *British Association's Report on Migration in 1883.*

[Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1883. By Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown, Mr. J. Cordeaux, Mr. R. M. Barrington, and Mr. A. G. More. 8vo. London: 1884.]

A feature in this, the Fifth Report, is a return from Skykkesholm, Iceland, by M. Thorlacius. Mr. Gätke continues to give us the benefit of his observations on Heligoland, prolific of rarities; and the Committee are again indebted to Prof. Lütken of Copenhagen for a list of the birds killed by striking against the lantern of the lighthouse at Stevns, the projecting part of Zealand. It is gratifying to notice an increase in the number of the schedules filled up by the keepers of the lighthouses and lightships on our coasts; and we note with satisfaction that the money-grant of the Association has been slightly augmented.

58. *Buckley and Harvie-Brown on the Birds of Sutherlandshire.*

[The Vertebrate Fauna of Sutherlandshire. By T. E. Buckley, B.A. &c., and J. A. Harvie-Brown, F.R.S.E. &c. Being an Appendix to the second edition of the late Mr. Charles St. John's 'Tour in Sutherland.' 1884.]

It would be impossible to indicate two naturalists more eminently qualified to write the history of Sutherlandshire and its productions than the above-named Members of the B.O.U., who have studied the natural history of that extensive county for the past seventeen years. The ornithological

portion of their work is excellent ; and we particularly admire the caution exercised with regard to the reported occurrence of species which might not unreasonably be expected to visit Sutherland, although absolute proof is still wanting. The relative distribution of species in East and West Sutherland is very interesting.

59. *Collett on the Great Auk in Norway.*

[Ueber *Alca impennis* in Norwegen. Von Robert Collett. Mitth. ornith. Ver. in Wien, 1884.]

The author's chief object seems to be the rehabilitation of the testimony (to which, as before stated in 'The Ibis,' 1861, p. 377, Wolley demurred) of Herr Brodtkorb, who professes that in 1848 he shot an *Alca impennis* off the coast of East Finmark. Whether the attempt be successful would take too long here to discuss. A catalogue, with measurements, of the bones of this species found on Funk Island in 1841 by Stuwitz, and now in the Christiania Museum, is a useful addition to the lists of its remains hitherto published ; but are we really to believe that so much individual variation is shown by the specimens as from 46 mm. to 77 mm. in the breadth of the skull, or is not the latter number a misprint ?

60. *Cory on the Birds of San Domingo.*

[The Birds of Haiti and San Domingo. By Charles B. Cory, F.L.S. Part III. 4to. Boston: 1884.]

Mr. Cory's third part of the Birds of Haiti and San Domingo carries on the subject to the Scolopacidae and Parridae. The following species are figured in this part :—*Conurus chloropterus*, *Rupornis ridgwayi* in three stages of plumage, *Oedicnemus dominicensis*, and *Parra gymnostoma*.

61. *Dresser's Monograph of the Bee-eaters.*

[A Monograph of the Meropidae, or Family of the Bee-eaters. By H. E. Dresser, F.L.S. Part III. Small folio. London: 1884.]

Part III. of Mr. Dresser's Monograph contains well-executed coloured plates of the seven following species :—

Merops superciliosus.

—— *apiaster*.

—— *malimbicus*.

—— *nubicus*.

Merops nubicoides.

Dicrocercus hirundineus.

Melittophagus lafresnayei.

62. *Fischer on the Birds of Masai-land.*

[Uebersicht der von Dr. G. A. Fischer auf seiner im Auftrage der Hamburger Geographischen Gesellschaft unternommenen Reise in das Masailand gesammelten und beobachteten Vogelarten. Bearbeitet von Dr. G. A. Fischer.]

In this memoir Dr. Fischer gives an account of the birds collected and observed during his recent journey into Masai-land from Pangani, in which he passed south-west of Kilimanjaro, and reached Lake Naivasha. The two principal places at which collections were made were Great Aruscha on Mount Maeru, and the village of Nguruman, in long. 36° E., lat. 2° S., on the eastern slope of a mountain-chain which extends from north to south through Masai-land. Between the coast and Lake Naivasha altogether 345 species of birds were observed, and specimens of 269 species were obtained, of which 36 were new. The new species have been already described by Drs. Fischer and Reichenow in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for January 1884 (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1884, p. 339).

A new Nightingale (*Lusciola africana*) sang morning and evening to the traveller during his twelve days' stay at Little Aruscha, near the base of Kilimanjaro; and a Cuckoo with three tones to its cry (*Cuculus heuglini*) was met with in many spots in Masai-land. Its egg was taken April 28th in the nest of *Erythropygia leucoptera*. A pair of *Cuculus canorus* were also obtained at Little Aruscha on March 29th. *Parus fringillinus*, *Euplectes frederichseni*, *Notauges fischeri*, and *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* are figured.

63. *Glanville's Catalogue of the Albany Museum, Cape Colony.*

[Catalogue of the Natural History Collection of the Albany Museum, Graham's Town. 8vo. Cape Town: 1883.]

The Albany Museum at Graham's Town is said to be the only institution of the kind at present existing in the eastern districts of the Cape Colony, with the exception of a small collection in the Gill College, Somerset East. Its energetic Curator, Mr. M. Glanville, had prepared the present catalogue with the view of showing what specimens it already possesses, and with the hope of inducing his fellow-colonists to help him to make it more complete. The series of South-African birds enumerated (pp. 15-52) seems to be of considerable extent.

64. *Godman and Salvin's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman and Osbert Salvin. (Zoology.) Parts XXVIII. to XXXIV. 4to. London: 1884. Published for the Editors by R. H. Porter, 10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.]

Our friends make good progress with this important work. Seven numbers have been issued since our last notice (*Ibis*, 1884, p. 208). The Bird parts are in numbers xxviii. and xxxiv., and carry on the Passeres of the Oscinine section to the commencement of the Fringillidæ. The following species are figured:—*Chlorospingus punctulatus*, *C. pileatus*, *C. hypophæus*, *Buarremon capitalis*, *B. tibialis*, and *Pitylus celeno*.

65. *Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea.'*

[The Birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan Islands, including any new Species that may be discovered in Australia. By [the late] John Gould, F.R.S. &c. Parts XVII. & XVIII. Folio. London: 1884.]

We have two parts of the 'Birds of New Guinea' to notice, containing illustrations of the following species:—

PART XVII.

<i>Ninox odiosa</i> .	<i>Myiagra ferrocyanea</i> .
<i>Carpophaga finschi</i> .	<i>Myzomela erythrina</i> .
<i>Ptilopus lewisi</i> .	— <i>melanocephala</i> .
<i>Graucalus pusillus</i> .	<i>Dicaeum æneum</i> .
<i>Rhipidura cockerelli</i> .	<i>Zosterops longirostris</i> .
<i>Pomarea ugiensis</i> .	<i>Stigmatops albo-auricularis</i> .
<i>Piezorhynchus richardsii</i> .	

PART XVIII.

Drepanornis cervinicauda.	Pomarea castaneiventris.
Charinosyna margaritæ.	Rhipidura leucothorax.
Ptilopus richardsi.	Piezorhynchus brodiei.
Myzomela wakoloensis.	— browni.
Dicaeum tristrami.	Haleyon leucopygia.
Myiagra cervinicauda.	Zosterops fuscifrons.
Pomarea rufocastanea.	

Many fine species from the Solomon Islands are included in this series, and render it evident that the avifauna of this group is most rich and varied, and worthy of special investigation. Mr. Sharpe does not give us the locality of *Myiagra ferrocyanea*, which should have been stated to be from Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands.

66. *Gurney on the Birds of Norfolk.*

[Catalogue of the Birds of Norfolk. By J. H. Gurney, Jun. Reprinted from Mason's 'History of Norfolk.' 8vo. London: 1884.]

This is an exceedingly useful list, conveying in a condensed form a large amount of information. It is especially serviceable as regards the distribution of the water-birds, owing to the delay in the appearance of those fuller details which we may, perhaps, some day see in the long-expected vol. iii. of Mr. Stevenson's 'Birds of Norfolk.' The arrangement is the only drawback; for, unfortunately, the author has adopted the sequence propounded by Sundevall, so that it is no easy matter to know where to look for a bird. Who would expect to find the Pigeons between the Kingfisher and the Barn-Owl, and Pallas's Sand-Grouse following the Osprey? On the other hand, we do not find the Pratincole in juxtaposition with the Nightjar, where Sundevall placed it! We may be partial, but, with all its imputed defects, we think that the arrangement of the 'B. O. U. List' is better than this.

67. *Hawtayne's Taxidermic Notes.*

[Taxidermic and other Notes. By a Collector. 12mo. 62 pp. Georgetown, Demerara: 1884.]

Mr. Hawtayne's handy little book will, we trust, carry out

its excellent object—that of assisting persons desirous of contributing to the Georgetown Museum or the Exhibitions to be held in Georgetown in 1885 and in London in 1886. The notes, compiled from the well-known directions of the Smithsonian Institution and other recognized authorities, relate to the preparation of specimens of natural history and other similar objects.

68. *Henke on the Ostrich-question.*

[Beitrag zur Lösung der Straussenfrage. Von K. G. Henke. Zeitsch. f. d. gesammte Ornithol. 1884, p. 219.]

Herr Henke recognizes three different varieties of Ostrich-eggs, which he thinks must be the produce of three distinct species. Figures are given of eggs of *Struthio molybdophanes* of Somaliland and *Struthio australis* of South Africa.

69. *Homeyer on a new Stonechat.*

[Beschreibung eines neuen Steinschmätzers *Saxicola cyprica*. Von E. F. von Homeyer. Zeitschr. f. d. g. Orn. 1884, p. 397.]

The supposed new species of Stonechat from Cyprus resembles *S. morio*, but has a blacker back, a lighter rufous breast, and less white in the tail.

70. *Huet on Additions to the Jardin des Plantes.*

[Note sur les naissances, dons et acquisitions de la Ménagerie du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, pendant les mois de Septembre, Octobre, Novembre et Décembre 1883. Par M. Huet. Bull. Soc. d'Acclimatation, Feb. 1884.]

The number of additions to the collection of living birds in the Jardin des Plantes in 1883 was 319. Of these the most noticeable seem to have been examples of *Rhea darwini* and *Bernicla poliocephala*.

71. *Le Moine on Canadian Ornithology.*

[Ornithology in Canada and in the United States. By J. M. Le Moine. From 'Quebec Morning Chronicle' of 23rd August, 1884; separate issue.]

A short compilation prepared for use of the Members of the British Association.

72. *Meyer on Birds' Nests and Eggs from the East Indies.*

[Notizen über Vögel Nester und Eier aus dem ostindischen Archipel, speciell über die durch Herrn C. Ribbe von den Aru-Inseln jüngst erhaltenen. Von A. B. Meyer. Zeitschr. f. d. g. Orn. 1884, p. 269.]

Eighty-two species of birds, mostly from the Aroo group, are noticed, and information of different kinds supplied about them. *Rhectes analogus*, from Aroo, and *Xanthotis rubiensis*, from Rubi, are described as new. Two young females of *Eclectus roratus*, hatched in captivity at Karlsruhe (cf. Gefiederte Welt, 1884, p. 413), are figured. Many nests and eggs are described, and a selection of eggs figured, amongst which is a (damaged) one of *Paradisea apoda*.

73. 'The Naturalist.'

[The Naturalist: a Journal of Natural History for the North of England. Edited by W. Denison Roebuck and W. Eagle Clarke. Nos. 109-115, August 1884 to February 1885. 8vo. London and Leeds.]

This is, we presume, a continuation of the 'Yorkshire Naturalist' under a more general title. Be this as it may, the first of the parts before us contains some very interesting papers and items of information from the Editors and such contributors as Messrs. Bolam, Cordeaux, Whitaker, and Lord Walsingham. Mr. Bolam records the capture of the Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) in his garden at Berwick-on-Tweed, on the 5th October 1883, the fourth occurrence in the British Islands. In No. 112 the Rev. H. H. Slater records the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) obtained on the coast of Holderness on the 28th August, and exhibited at a recent Meeting of the Zoological Society. A Tengmalm's Owl was obtained on the 18th October, and identified by Mr. W. E. Clarke. The authenticated breeding of the Reed-Warbler in Cheshire, the furthest north-western locality on record, is interesting. In addition to the numerous articles and notes on birds, No. 115 contains a useful bibliography for 1884 of papers relating to the natural history of the north of England; and so far this Magazine appears to be worthy of high and hearty praise.

74. *Olphe-Galliard on the Ornithology of Western Europe.*

[Contributions à la Faune Ornithologique de l'Europe Occidentale. Par Léon Olphe-Galliard. Fasc. 1. 8vo. Bayonne: 1884.]

The present work is intended to treat of the birds of Spain and Portugal, the Azores, the Balearic Islands, France, French Switzerland, the Rhine valley to the North Sea, the coasts of Belgium, the British Islands, and the Channel Islands. We do not know why the Canaries are excluded. Following Scopoli, the class Aves is dedicated to Edwards—the author commencing with the suborder Anseres, comprising, so far, the Auks, Divers, and Grebes. There is evidence of great research, but we have some doubt whether the more recent authorities have been always consulted.

75–78. *Ridgway on American Birds.*

[75. Note on *Selasphorus torridus*, Salvin. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1884, p. 14.

76. *Melanetta fusca* (Linn.) in Alaska. *Tom. cit.* p. 68.

77. Description of a new Snow-Bunting from Alaska. *Loc. cit.*

78. Description of a new Species of Coot from the West Indies. *Tom. cit.* p. 358.]

In No. 75 the *Selasphorus* from the Volcan de Irazú, Costa Rica, recorded in vol. v. p. 497 as *S. flammula*, is referred to *S. torridus*. In No. 76 it is stated that the European Velvet Scoter has been obtained by Mr. C. L. McKay in Alaska, where *Melanetta velvetina* also occurs. No. 77 contains a description of a very fine and distinct new species of Snow-Bunting which has been discovered in Alaska by the Smithsonian collectors. Mr. Ridgway calls it *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*; the adult male in spring is pure white, except on the ends of the five outer primaries, which are chiefly black. According to No. 78, the new Coot, *Fulica caribbæa*, from Guadeloupe and St. Johns, W. I., is allied to *F. americana*, but differs in its slenderer bill and the form and colour of the frontal shield.

79. *Salvadori on the Birds of Shoa.*

[Spedizione Italiana nell' Africa Equatoriale—Risultati Zoologici—Uccelli dello Scioa e della regione fra Zeila e lo Scioa. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Annali Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, i. 1884, p. 19.]

The well-known Italian naturalist Antinori went to Shoa, in Southern Abyssinia, in 1876, at the head of an exploring expedition, and remained there, or in its vicinity, until his death in 1877. During the six years of his stay in that country (only known to science previously from the results of the visit of our countryman, Sir W. S. Harris, and of a collector employed by Rüppell), Antinori made extensive collections in every branch of natural history. Of birds there were received in Italy 1531 specimens from Shoa, besides about 30 others from other localities. These are worked out by Count Salvadori in his usual accurate and painstaking manner, and are referred to 307 species (from Shoa), of which five (*Caprimulgus frænatus*, *Psolidoprocne antinorii*, *Euplectes scioanus*, *Textor scioanus*, and *Podiceps infuscatus*) are regarded as new. The exact localities and collector's field-notes are given of every specimen. A nest of *Colius leucotis* and two eggs are in the collection. The nest is cup-shaped, only slightly hollowed, and placed in the centre of a dense thorn-bush. The eggs are rather rounded, whitish, with (apparently) fine punctulations of dark grey, which, however, are perhaps attributable to bad conservation.

80. *Saunders's Edition of 'Yarrell's British Birds.'*

[A History of British Birds. By the late William Yarrell, V.P.L.S., F.Z.S. Fourth Edition. Revised to the end of the Second Volume by Alfred Newton, M.A., F.R.S.; continued by Howard Saunders, F.L.S., F.Z.S. Parts XXVI.-XXVIII. December 1884 to March 1885.]

Part XXVI. contains the Herodiones; Part XXVII. the Flamingo (which has occurred three or four times in England, and always in autumn), the Geese, the Whooper, and Bewick's Swan, the other Swans and nearly all the fresh-water Ducks being comprised in Part XXVIII.

81. *Smithsonian Report for 1882.*

[Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, expenditure, and condition of the Institution for the Year 1882. 8vo. Washington: 1884.]

The most interesting portion of this Report to ornithologists is Mr. Ridgway's account of the bird-collection in the National Museum, which, by special Act of Congress, has been placed under the charge of the Smithsonian Institution (pp. 132-135). The total number of specimens in the collection when the Report was prepared was 44,354. Forty-four papers based upon materials provided by the collection were published in 1882.

82. *Stejneger on Trinomials in Ornithology.*

[On the Use of Trinomials in American Ornithology. By Leonard Stejneger. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1884, p. 70.]

Mr. Stejneger gives us an excellent essay on trinomials, which he regards "as a nuisance, but a very necessary nuisance." He shows that, although now more generally employed in America than elsewhere, trinomials are by no means an American invention. Sundevall was the father of modern trinomialism, and Schlegel, in 1844, introduced twenty-seven subspecies into his list of European birds, adding the subspecific name without any connecting word or letter. J. H. Blasius, Bonaparte, Middendorff, and others also employed trinomials freely.

It has been said that the great objection to the system is the opportunity it gives to the ignorant of naming as subspecies forms too slightly differentiated to require any such formal recognition. Mr. Stejneger is of opinion, in which we agree with him, that a more injurious use of trinomials is liable to be made in reducing good and distinct species to mere races or varieties. But he shows clearly that the recognition of the minor differences on which subspecies are based is of vital importance to the study of birds. He is also of opinion that these subspecies ought to have separate names, and that the best way of effecting this is the trinomial designation.

83. *Taczanowski's 'Ornithology of Peru.'*

[Ornithologie du Pérou. Par Ladislas Taczanowski. Tome ii. Royal 8vo. Rennes: 1884. 566 pp.]

The second volume of this laborious and most useful undertaking continues the account of the Passeres and concludes with the 911th species from the commencement of the work. Short Latin diagnoses and French descriptions are given of every species, besides general observations by the author and notes by the collector. The following species (besides subspecies) are described as new:—

<i>Thamnophilus berlepschi.</i>	<i>Myiopatis wagæ.</i>
<i>Dysithamnus tambillanus.</i>	<i>Elainea gracilis.</i>
<i>Synallaxis paucalensis.</i>	<i>Chloropipo unicolor.</i>
<i>Anabazenops ruficollis.</i>	<i>Phœnicothraupis peruvianus.</i>
<i>Muscisaxicola grisea.</i>	<i>Nemosia pectoralis.</i>
— <i>juninensis.</i>	<i>Buarremon albiceps.</i>
<i>Leptopogon rufipectus.</i>	<i>Anæretes nigricristatus.</i>

M. Taczanowski refers *Sericossypha albocristata* (p. 387) to the Cotingidæ. He seems to have omitted *Pyrranga rubra*, already recorded from Peru in P. Z. S. 1874, p. 514.

84. *Vila on the Ornithology of Gerona.*

[Fauna Ornitológica de la Provincia de Gerona, ó sea breve descripción de las aves sedentarias en la misma y las de paso accidental ó periódico, sus costumbres y alimentación bajo el punto de vista de utilidad ó perjuicio para con el hombre y la agricultura en general, por D. Estanislao Vayreda y Vila. 8vo. Gerona: 1883.]

From the title it will be seen that the object of this work is ambitious; but the result is far from satisfactory. It is only likely to be read by those who are already familiar with Spanish ornithology, to whom it will do no harm, inasmuch as they are capable of separating the wheat from the chaff, and they may even find some few grains of comfort in it. It positively bristles with what we will charitably call misprints; and the misstatements, if less numerous, are more serious. The Catalan names of the common species may be found useful by those who can properly identify the birds to which they apply.